

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

ST. MARYCHURCH DISTRICT COUNCIL, 1897.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—

I have much pleasure in handing you my twentieth annual report, viz., that for 1897.

Birth Rate.—The number of births which have taken place is 128, or a rate of 18·6 per 1,000. There were 70 boys and 58 girls. In 1896 there were 141 births; in 1895, 152; and in 1894, 143.

Death Rate.—The number of deaths is 88 or a rate of 12·8 per 1,000. The average for the past ten years is 100, but 1897 is the lowest mortality since 1889. Six deaths occurred among visitors and strangers, and these being deducted the rate will be 11·9 per 1,000. These figures are based on the census of 1891, viz., 6,846, say 6,850. The causes will be seen from the following tables :—

Death Rate for St. Marychurch, as required by the Local Government Board, 1897.					
NAME OF DISEASE.		UNDER 5 YEARS		OVER 5 YEARS.	
Small Pox	0	..	0	..	0
Scarlatina	0	..	0	..	0
Diphtheria	0	..	0	..	0
Membranous Croup ..	1	..	0	..	0
Fevers {	Typhus	0	..	0	0
	Enteric or Typhoid ..	0	..	1	1
	Continued	0	..	0	0
	Relapsing	0	..	0	0
	Puerperal	0	..	0	0
Cholera	0	..	0	..	0
Erysipelas	0	..	0	..	0
Measles	0	..	0	..	0
Whooping Cough ..	0	..	0	..	0
Diarrhoea and Dysentery	1	..	0	..	0
Rheumatic Fever ..	0	..	0	..	0
Ague	0	..	0	..	0
Phthisis	0	..	16	..	16
Bronchitis, Pleurisy, and					
Pneumonia	1	..	5	..	5
Heart Disease	0	..	6	..	6
Influenza	0	..	2	..	2
Injuries	0	..	3	..	3
All other Diseases ..	12	..	40	..	40
	15		73		73
Total for 1897	88				

These figures should be compared with those of previous years in the following table :—

Causes of death in St. Marychurch for ten years													
CAUSES.	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97			
Small Pox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Scarlatina	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	3	0			
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Membranous Croup ..	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	1			
Fevers {	Typhus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
	Enteric or Typhoid ..	2	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	1		
	Continued	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
	Relapsing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
	Puerperal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0		
Cholera	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Erysipelas	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Measles	6	2	0	0	5	3	0	1	5	0			
Whooping Cough ..	1	0	6	1	1	0	1	0	4	0			
Diarrhoea & Dysentery	1	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	2	1			
Rheumatic Fever ..	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0			
Ague	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Phthisis	6	4	6	9	3	11	7	10	12	16			
Bronchitis, Pleurisy, and													
Pneumonia	20	12	33	17	33	8	13	17	12	6			
Heart Disease	12	6	9	15	1	7	16	12	13	6			
Influenza	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	2			
Injuries	3	0	3	1	2	3	4	4	2	3			
All other Diseases ..	53	43	56	54	65	69	47	57	52	52			
	105	69	120	98	118	102	92	102	112	88			

Zymotic Death Rate.—Three deaths have been ascribed to zymotic diseases, or a rate of ·45 per 1,000. In 1896 the zymotic death rate was 2·18; in 1895, ·14; and in 1894, ·75. Membranous croup, enteric fever, and diarrhoea contributed one each to this rate. Altogether eight cases of zymotic disease have been notified during the year, viz., scarlatina, 4, and enteric fever, 4. This is the smallest number since the passing of the Notification Act in 1890. In each of the homes of the enteric fever cases quite sufficient defects were found to account for the mischief. The ages at which death took place were as follow :— Under one year, 12; one and under five, 3; five and under fifteen, 1; fifteen and under twenty-five, 3; twenty-five and under sixty-five, 34; and sixty-five and upwards, 35; total, 88.

Visitors.—One death was due to phthisis, and the remaining five were entered under “all other diseases.”

Hospital for Infectious Diseases.—The little cottage, after being empty for some months, was again brought into use recently to isolate cases of scarlatina, and thus benefit the families from which the patients were removed.

Adulteration Food and Drugs Act.—The county police took 17 samples of milk and 3 of beer, and one vendor of milk was fined.

Water Supply.—I examined samples of water from thirteen public wells, and failed to detect any serious pollution. The vast majority of the inhabitants of your district use the water supplied by the Torquay Corporation, and it must be satisfactory to you to know that that body has decided on purchasing the whole of the watershed and removing the farmhouses and their inhabitants. That this measure is one of great importance must be evident to all who have watched the history of recent epidemics of water-borne typhoid, as revealed in the public press.

Barton.—I have submitted to your Sanitary Committee a report on the Barton district, and, from the manner in which it has been received, I have reason to believe that this matter will not be shelved. It is indeed high time that the inhabitants of Barton received some of the advantages of modern sanitary progress. For several years I have been alluding to the urgency for taking the Barton district in hand, and I trust that 1898 will see the necessary work begun.

Lawes Bridge.—The serious nuisance arising from cesspits near Lawes Bridge seems about to be remedied at last, perhaps before serious mischief draws public attention to the spot. At present all parties interested appear desirous of co-operating in finding a solution for the difficulty, and I quite anticipate a successful issue.

Bakehouses.—I have visited all these, and report that they are kept in good condition.

I have made the usual general inspection of the district, and certain portions have received special attention.

I remain, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
PAUL Q. KARKEEK, M.R.C.S., & L.S.A.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Torquay, Jan. 13th, 1898.

